

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the response filed November 26, 2003 has been objected to, whereby it has been indicated that claims that were selected to read upon the elected species I as being incorrect in that the features recited are either not shown or shown in nonelected figures.

Applicant first of all respectfully thanks Examiner Bumgarner for the courtesies extended during the February 23, 2004 telephone conference.

In response to the Examiner's objections, Applicant proposes amending claims 1 and 3 to further clarify the dental instrument recited therein. Applicant further respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to paragraphs [010]-[011] and [026]-[029] for an explanation of the features recited in independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

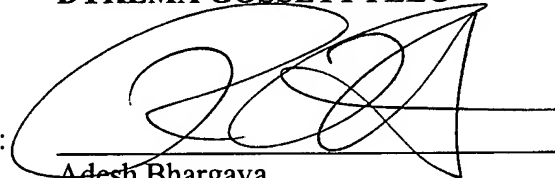
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 04-2223. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

Dated: March 3, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adesh Bhargava', written over a horizontal line.

Adesh Bhargava

Reg. No. 46,553

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC
1300 I Street, N.W., Suite 300 West
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 906-8696